

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/635,427

Examiner

Allyson N. Trail

Applicant(s)

GOLDSTEIN ET AL.

Art Unit

2876

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the amendment filed 9/28/2005 and the telephone interview on 12/9/2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-33 and 37-55.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date 12-2005.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

DETAILED ACTION

Amendment

1. Receipt is acknowledged of the Amendment filed June 23, 2005.

Examiner's Amendment

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Robert Hunt December 9, 2005.

In the Claims:

Cancel claim 56.

Remarks

3. Applicants submitted a Declaration under 37 C.F.R. 1.131, wherein the inventors assert that they conceived and actually reduced to practice the invention as set forth in claims 1-33 and 37-56 before June 28, 2002. The Declaration is acceptable and therefore Ranard cannot be used as prior art to these claims under any section of 35 U.S.C. 102.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 1-33 and 37-55 are allowable over prior art.

The following is an examiner's reason for allowance: Prior art teaches methods of transaction card fabrication. These methods include providing a group of transaction cards, which include a first identifier formed on the card,

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forming a second identifier on each of the transaction cards so each transaction card has at least two identifiers associated with the transaction card and is uniquely identified from all others in the group of cards, machine reading the identifiers from the cards, and lastly, sorting the identifiers read from the transaction cards. The above identified prior art of record, taken alone, or in combination with any other prior art, fails to teach or fairly suggest the specific features of claims 1-33 and 37-55, which are disclosed in the current application. Specifically, prior art does not teach the transaction card fabrication control system disclosed in claim 1, which includes all of the following aspects, including a card reader that reads an identifier from a plurality of transaction cards in a group, wherein the identifier uniquely identifies each transaction card from other transaction cards in the group and is usable in facilitating an association of a transaction involving each transaction card with an issuee. The system further includes a card transport that moves transaction cards relative to the card reader, a card presence sensor that detects the presence of transaction cards moved by the card transport; and lastly a controller that compares identifiers read from a set of transaction cards by the card reader to a stored list of identifiers for the transaction cards and generates an approval report to release the set of transaction cards for packaging only if all identifiers read from the set of transaction cards match corresponding identifiers in the stored list. Similarly, prior art fails to teach the method disclosed in claim 18, which includes reading identifiers from the plurality of sets of transaction cards, comparing identifiers read from transaction cards in each set to a stored list of identifiers associated

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with the set, determining if the identifiers read from the transaction cards in each set match corresponding identifiers in the stored list associated with the set, generating a report that indicates a set is complete if all identifiers read from the set match a corresponding identifier in the associated stored list, and lastly, generating a report that indicates a set is incomplete if at least one identifier read from the set does not match a corresponding identifier in the associated stored list. Prior art additionally fails to teach, in regards to claims 37 and 55, physically organizing the set of transaction cards, wherein the set has 5 or more transaction cards and less than a total number of cards in the group, to be separately packaged from other sets of transaction cards, comparing the identifiers read from the sets to a stored list of identifiers, and automatically identifying if any transaction cards in the sets are unexpected or duplicates or if there are any missing transaction cards based on the comparison step. These specific limitations are not disclosed in prior art and moreover, one of ordinary skill in the art would not have been motivated to come to the claimed invention.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure: Poore et al (6,202,933).

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6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to *Allyson N. Trail* whose telephone number is (571) 272-2406. The examiner can normally be reached between the hours of 7:30AM to 4:00PM Monday thru Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael G. Lee, can be reached on (571) 272-2398. The fax phone number for this Group is (571) 273-8300.

Communications via Internet e-mail regarding this application, other than those under 35 U.S.C. 132 or which otherwise require a signature, may be used by the applicant and should be addressed to [allyson.trail@uspto.gov].

All Internet e-mail communications will be made of record in the application file. PTO employees do not engage in Internet communications where there exists a possibility that sensitive information could be identified or exchanged unless the record includes a properly signed express waiver of the confidentiality requirements of 35 U.S.C. 122. This is more clearly set forth in the Interim Internet Usage Policy published in the Official Gazette of the Patent and Trademark on February 25, 1997 at 1195 OG 89.

Allyson N. Trail
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2876
December 9, 2005



KARL D. FRECH
PRIMARY EXAMINER